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THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

27 NOV. 1961
~~TOP SECRET~~

LATE ITEM

Negotiations in Dominican
Republic coming to a head

The moderate opposition has asked Balaguer to appoint Fiallo Secretary of the Armed Forces--which would make him constitutional successor to the Presidency--and then to resign. The opposition believes Balaguer has agreed and that it has the support of the military in this proposal. Hill, when he reported, had not had a chance to talk to Balaguer.

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1. Laos: Phoumi, under pressure, accepts compromise on security arrangements.

A. The princes' meeting in Vientiane is now tentatively scheduled for this week, but another meeting of representatives to make final arrangements is still necessary, and further delays are not unlikely.

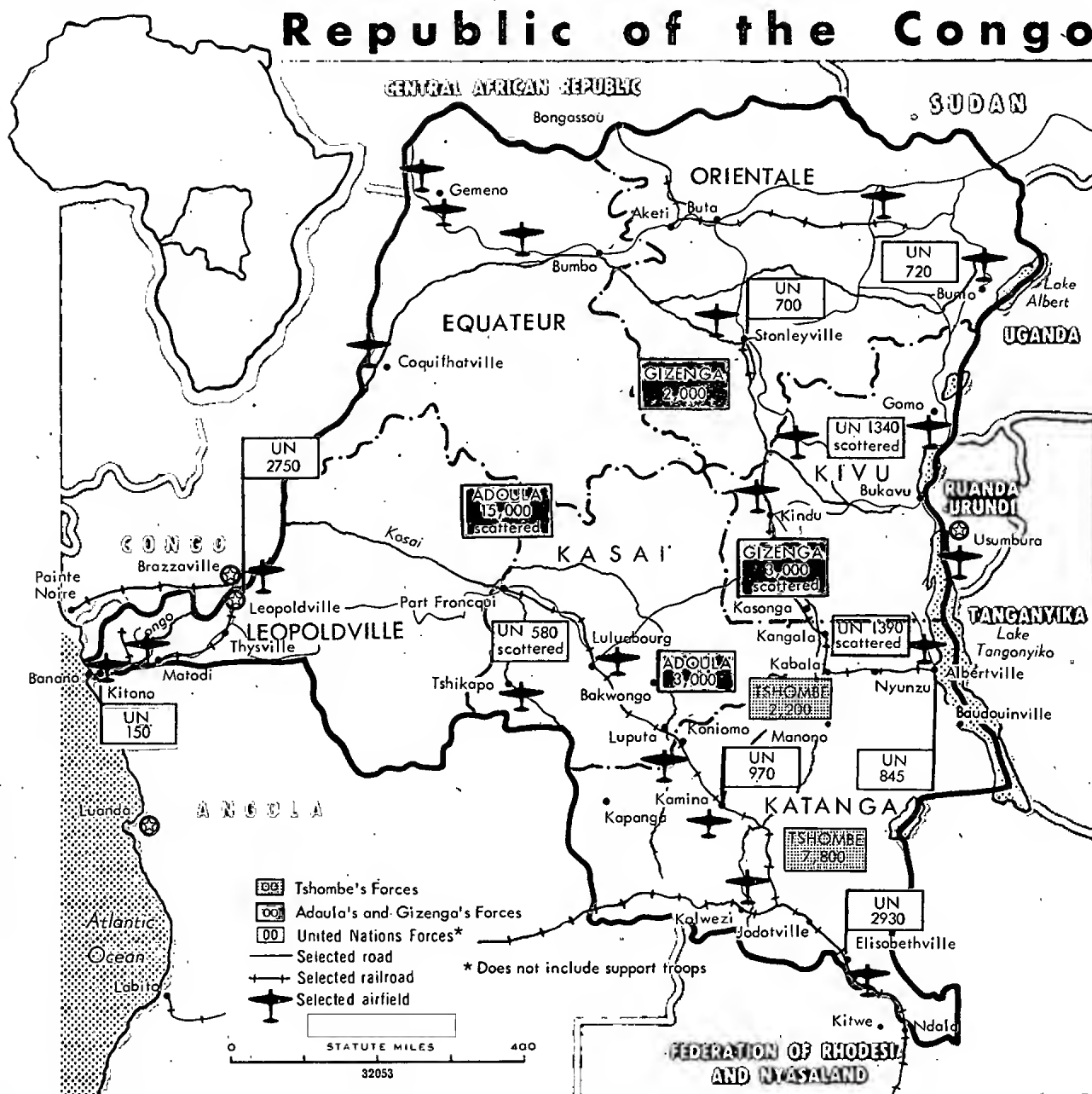
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B. Soviet Ambassador Abramov assisted Brown in arranging the compromise. He impressed Brown as extremely anxious to avoid a resumption of hostilities, specifically stating that it would result in Chinese intervention.

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2. Attempt to overthrow government of El Salvador may occur in next few days.

The "Fourteen Families," strongly opposed to the present reform-minded provisional government, have purchased the support of a number of army officers. Loyal army officers are looking for a way to block the coup.



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3. Friday's UN resolutions open way for new moves against Katanga

A. Tshombé has responded defiantly to the resolution, which, although limited, does authorize the UN to use force in ousting his mercenaries. The UN is planning for renewed operations, but is probably short of troops for a full-scale campaign in Katanga. Action against Tshombé's mercenaries, however, would leave him more vulnerable to Gizengist incursions from the north. Katanga claims it repelled another attack by Leopoldville forces yesterday.

B.

[redacted]
[redacted] Lundula, rather than acting as a sleeper for the extreme nationalists, is genuinely puzzled as to which group of nationalists he should support, [redacted]

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4. Vietnam

A. North Vietnam has protested strongly to the Geneva Co-chairmen against increased US military support of Diem.

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C. [redacted] today's Saigon press suggests that the campaign against "conditions" on US aid is continuing. [redacted]

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5. Lightner analyzes
Ulbricht's report
to the East German
Central Committee

He thinks Ulbricht was attempting to "explain away" postponement of the peace treaty. While following Khrushchev's lead in defining the framework for negotiations, Ulbricht took an extreme bargaining position, ruling out any East German concessions in return for de facto recognition and demanding--inter alia--reduction of Western troop strength and elimination of Western "subversive" activities in the city. [REDACTED]

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6. Spanish concern over
Spanish Sahara

The Spaniards have once again shown their hypersensitivity to US African policies. They made a strong protest to our Embassy in Madrid against an alleged statement by Ambassador Bonsal--which he did not make--to the Moroccans suggesting that Spain should give Morocco hegemony over Spanish Sahara. We can expect further buffeting from both sides over this sensitive issue. [REDACTED]

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NOTES

- A. There was some sort of incident off Portuguese Goa Friday night. The Portuguese claim they beat off an invasion; the Indians say a merchant ship was fired on and a fisherman killed. Nehru said that India is "taking some steps" to prevent further Portuguese firing. 50X1
- B. Algiers apparently had one of its bloodiest weekends yet, with both Moslems and the OAS active.
- C. Egypt has asked the US for 300,000 tons of rice under PL 480.
- D. The USSR has protested to our Embassy "the use of tourism for spying purposes."

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